

Japan

A country of "strange"
customs

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Japan: an ASIAN, isolated country



Japan's people: the Japanese



Japanese people

- Japanese people tend to place themselves in their own exclusive and closed communities.
- They are hard-working and diligent.
 - The Japanese cater to authority
 - Harmonize well with others.

a. Table Manners



Case Study 1: Individual sections of food

- Japanese people do not share silverware with others, nor do they want to share food in one single dish or bowl.
- You better serve them their own individual meals!

Case Study 2: chopsticks

-There aren't any forks and knives in Japan. A pair of chopsticks and occasionally a spoon is all you are given.



Case Study 3: Bowl flying around and slurping!

-Don't be confused when Japanese people pick up their bowl and use chopsticks to get their food to their mouths.

It's natural for them!

-They even slurp whilst enjoying udon noodles or ramen. In Japan, it is quite acceptable to slurp your noodles and make noises while you eat! In fact, slurping is being polite because by doing so, you are showing appreciation towards the cook!



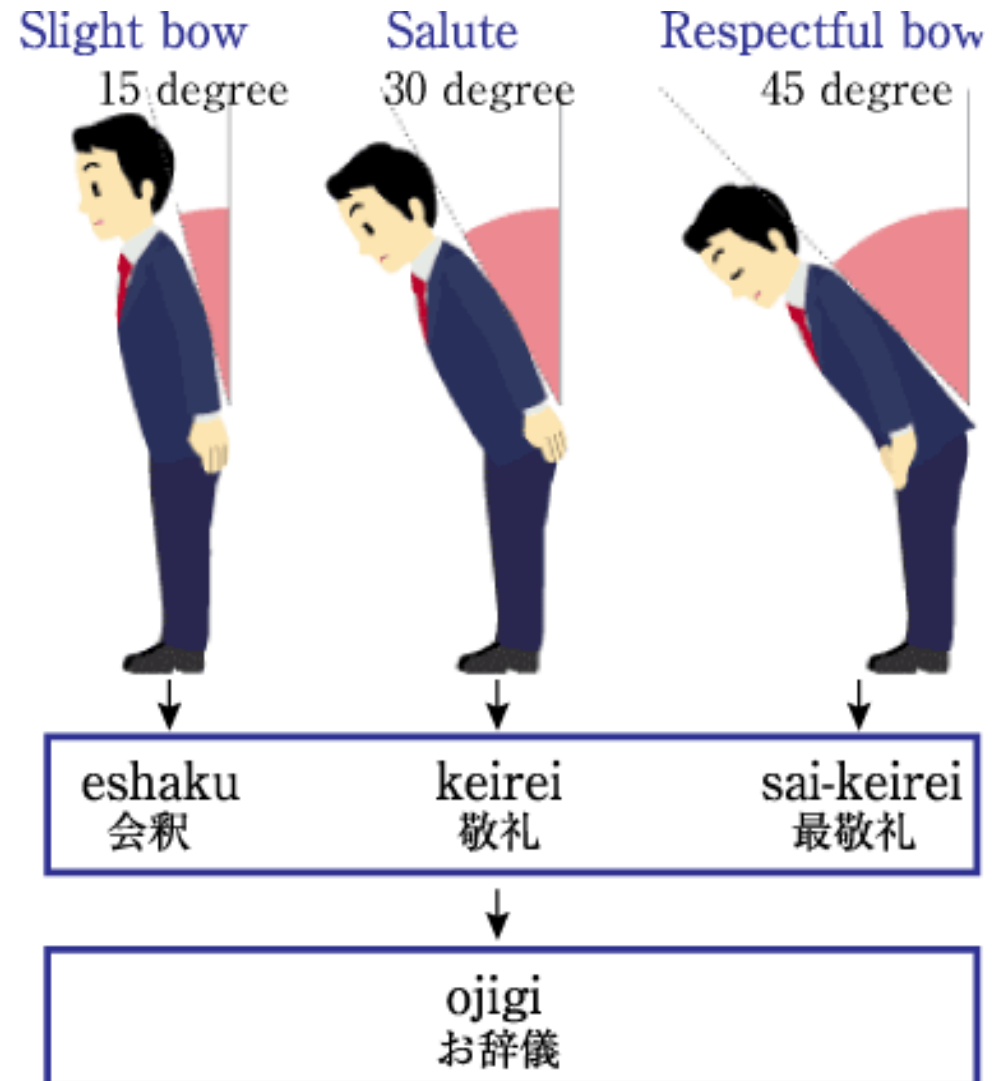
b. Culture of Respect

Case Study 4: Bowing

-If you've ever been to any other East Asian nation, this is pretty straightforward. Of course you'll be used to waving a hello or goodbye in America, but in Asia you bow to show respect in a greeting.



- The different angles of bowing show different levels of respect.
- The further you bow down, more respect you're showing.



Case Study 5: Shoes off!

- Most Americans wear shoes everywhere they go, even in their own homes!
- However, when you enter a Japanese house or certain restaurants, you **MUST** take off your shoes and leave them at the door!



Case Study 6: Thinking differently!

-Yes, in the U.S. many people are impromptu and act accordingly to different situations, therefore they are very flexible in their social habits. However, most Japanese people would find this awkward since they usually stick to set formats.

-For example, let's say October 1st is set to be a day where everyone turns off the a/c. However, it turns out that day is super hot. An American would just go turn on the a/c, whereas the Japanese would still leave it off.

Case Study 7: Paradigms of Beauty

-Men love women. American men probably have a idealistic beautiful woman in their minds, her having tan skin with a glamorous body. In Japan, having white, pale skin is the height of beauty. Don't just judge a woman's looks based on your American perspective!



Case Study 8: Beautiful Gifts

-In America, an ideal birthday or Christmas present would be money or a present that people could use or wear; in other words, Americans tend to give out practical gifts. The Japanese tend to give gifts that are more aesthetic and focus less on function.

Case Study 9: Sumo Wrestlers

-If you see a rather...
large man in Japan,
don't freak out.

-They aren't abnormally obese
or anything, they are
Japanese
wrestlers!

-They are actually very
strong with packed muscles
all over. But yes, they do eat
a LOT, more than you can
even imagine.



Case Study 10: Bathing

-Ok, don't gasp yet!
This is probably the most shocking scene you would've ever seen during your stay at Japan.

-Yes, they take baths together, naked.

What more is there to say?
Sex and nudity aren't correlated as well.



Bibliography

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THANKS FOR WATCHING

(teaching USA on Japan)